



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 14, 2018

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Kenneth Carter
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Deacons:

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Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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CHRISTIANS WHO ARE AFRAID OF HEIGHTS

If you've been to the Grand Canyon, you might have had that certain itching feeling, the crazy urge to walk right up to the edge of the cliff. For those of us who aren't afraid of heights, there is something extremely invigorating about walking up to the edge. It's almost as if we get to look death right in the face and say, "Not today!" However, every time we do this, we are taking a risk. Tragically, or maybe foolishly, there have been 6,852 deaths at the Grand Canyon. While not all of these are from falling off the cliff, many are. In fact, Grapevine, TX insurance agent John Anderson recently fell off the edge of the Grand Canyon to his death.

Sometimes as Christians we get a similar itching feeling. We get an urge to walk up to the edge of the sin cliff, just to see how close we can get. Maybe we're just curious. Maybe we are just foolish. No matter the reason, this is why so many fall into sin. Brethren, we shouldn't be this way.

We need to be Christians who run away from the sin cliff (**Genesis 39:6-12; II Timothy 2:22**). We need to be Christians who are on the alert and who resist Satan (**I Peter 5:8; James 4:7**). We need to be Christians who abstain from every form of evil (**I Thessalonians 5:22**). We need to be Christians who look for the way to escape the sin cliff (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

It's important for us to have a good healthy fear of sin. We need to be afraid to even come close to the sin cliff. What we need today are Christians who are afraid of heights!

So where are we standing? How close are we? Spiritually speaking, are we afraid of heights?

Brett Petrillo

HOW TO AVOID DRIFTING AWAY

I believe it is fair to say that, in life, people generally do not intentionally choose a path of destruction. For instance, most people do not say “I want to be overweight.” I know personally that it happens a little at a time. Then one day, you get on the scales and you find yourself at a place and you do not know how you got there. For most, it happens the same way when they turn away from God. Most do not say, I am going to denounce God. They do it a little at a time. They stop reading the Bible. They do not pray as much as they should. They start missing services. Then one day, they find themselves in a place and they do not know how they got there.

In speaking of things spoken of by the Lord, the Hebrews writer said, *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”* (**Hebrews 2:1**). Drifting away from God is a serious threat. It is like being out in the ocean on a float and falling asleep. When you wake up, you are in serious trouble. So, what we need to consider are some ways that we can be sure that we do not spiritually drift away.

First, we need to keep rowing. Do not let anyone fool you. Being anywhere close to what God wants you to be is not going to be a breeze. Jesus made that clear when He said it would not be the multitude, but the few that found the way of salvation (**Matthew 7:13-14**). We are in a spiritual battle and if we do not want to fall back, we must continue to move forward.

Second, we need to watch out for undercurrents. Spiritually speaking, undercurrents are the temptations that we do not see on the surface. Satan makes a habit of looking for this type of opportunity (**I Peter 5:8**). That is the very reason that we must be watchful and vigilant. Satan is always looking for a time that we are weak to try to drag us under (**Luke 4:2-3, 13**). The Bible makes it clear that we are all going to make mistakes (**Romans 3:23**). We just have to make sure that they are only momentary and not things that cause us to move away from the light and into darkness (**I John 1:7-10**).

Third, we need to be aware of the fact that we are going to be going against the tide. Jesus Himself could not convince everyone to accept the truth. In fact, John says He came to His own and His own did not receive Him. We are certainly not greater than our master, and if He was persecuted we should expect the same or worse (**John 15:20**). The bolder we get and the louder we preach the more opposition we will face. It will not be easy, but we should remember the words of Paul *“Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (**I Corinthians 15:58**). In other words, heaven will surely be worth it all.

Doug Tooley